



Alameda Countywide  
Clean Water Program  
A Consortium of Local Agencies

## Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) for RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOL, SPA, or FOUNTAIN MAINTENANCE

In Alameda County, all storm drains flow directly to creeks and the San Francisco Bay with *no treatment*. In response to federal and state regulations and requirements, municipalities in Alameda County have joined to form the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program (ACCWP). In addition to reviewing their own practices, the ACCWP has launched a public education campaign and inspection program.

The way you maintain your swimming pool, spa, or fountain can make a significant difference in the water quality of our creeks and Bay. Remember that the owner is also liable for the practices of their contractors. Be sure you know how your contractor will be disposing of the pool, spa, or fountain water and filter cleaning washwater and backwash.

You can help reduce pollution by following the best management practices (BMPs) adopted by the ACCWP.

### ***Disposing of Swimming Pool, Spa, or Fountain Water:***

- The preferred method is to discharge pool, spa, or fountain water to the sanitary sewer system, unless prohibited by local ordinances. Discharges to the sanitary sewer system are subject to the review, approval, and conditions of the wastewater treatment agency. See attached list for the wastewater treatment agency for your area.
- Alameda agencies have adopted municipal ordinances that allow swimming pool, spa, and fountain water to be discharged to the storm drains **only** after **all** of the following conditions are met:
  - ✓ The pool, spa, or fountain water has been dechlorinated.
  - ✓ The water is within ambient temperature. This means heated water should be allowed to cool to air/standing temperature.
  - ✓ No copper-based algae control products have been added to the water.

### ***Disposing of Filter Rinsewater and Backwash:***

- Dispose of filter rinsewater and backwash into the soil or sanitary sewer connection. It is **illegal** to discharge filter rinsewater and backwash to creeks, gutter or storm drains.
  - ✓ Clean the filter in a wash area that drains to the sanitary sewer. If a sink is not readily available or is too small for the filter, create a wash area that contains the washwater and pump the washwater to a sanitary connection (e.g., cleanout, sink, etc.).
  - ✓ Temporary wash areas must be adequate to contain all washwaters. The temporary wash area is inadequate if washwater reaches creeks, gutters, or storm drains.

<b>For more information on discharging to the</b>	
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<b>sanitary sewer system in the following areas:</b>	<b>The wastewater treatment agency to contact is:</b>
Cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, or Piedmont	East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) 510/287-1651
Cities of Dublin or Pleasanton	Dublin-San Ramon Services District 510/846-4565
Cities of Fremont, Newark, or Union City	Union Sanitary District 510/477-7500
City of Hayward	City of Hayward 510/881-7900
City of Livermore	City of Livermore 925/373-5230
Cities of San Lorenzo or Castro Valley	Oro Loma Sanitary District 510/276-4700
City of San Leandro	City of San Leandro 510/577-3401

\*\*Phone numbers revised March 2004.

(Note there are additional requirements for *commercial* swimming pool facilities under the State's Health and Safety Code. Contact Alameda County Environmental Health if you have questions about commercial facilities.)

